

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for manufacturing a honeycomb structure having slits and a plurality of arrays of numerous cells aligned in parallel, ~~[[;]]~~ the slits communicating with external space and being formed along the cell arrays, which comprises:

an extruder having an extruding die for a honeycomb structure; and
a slit forming member ~~apparatus~~ including at least two slit forming members extending parallel to each other, wherein the slit forming members are capable of moving during extrusion, are arranged near said extruding die, and protruding ~~protrude~~ along arrays of a molded article being extruded in which slits are to be formed.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for manufacturing a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 1,

wherein the slit forming member is arranged so as to protrude inwardly with respect to ~~toward~~ the extruding die.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for manufacturing a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 1,

wherein said slit forming member is arranged so as to protrude ~~slit-forming member-outwardly~~ with respect to ~~toward~~ the extruding die.

4. (Original) The apparatus for manufacturing a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 3,

wherein said slit forming member is a J-shaped bit.

5. (Original) The manufacturing apparatus for a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 1, further comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring a position of the molded article being extruded; and

control means for controlling actions of the slit forming member.

6. (Original) The manufacturing apparatus for a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 2, further comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring a position of the molded article being extruded; and

control means for controlling actions of the slit forming member.

7. (Original) The manufacturing apparatus for a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 3, further comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring a position of the molded article being extruded; and

control means for controlling actions of the slit forming member.

8. (Original) The manufacturing apparatus for a honeycomb structure having slits according to Claim 4, further comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring a position of the molded article being extruded; and

control means for controlling actions of the slit forming member.